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Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the fifty-third submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2191 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2258 (2015), paragraph 5 of resolution 2332 (2016), paragraph 6 of resolution 2393 (2017) and paragraph 12 of resolution 2401 (2018), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on data available to agencies of the United Nations system and from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and other relevant sources. Data from agencies of the United Nations system on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for June 2018.

II. Major developments

Box 1
Key points: June 2018

1. Significant military escalation occurred from 17 June in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic, with air strikes and artillery shelling resulting in at least 65 deaths, scores of injuries and the displacement of an estimated 271,800 people. By the end of June, government forces had taken control of large swathes of territory in the eastern countryside of Dar'a Governorate and advanced towards the Syrian-Jordanian border. From 27 June, hostilities forced the United Nations to suspend its cross-border deliveries from Jordan for lack of security assurances. Pre-positioning enabled the United Nations and its partners to provide emergency assistance for some 180,000 people.

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2. Insecurity in Idlib Governorate in June resulting from fighting among non-State armed opposition groups continued to have a negative impact on the civilian population, including as a result of continued attacks on medical facilities and personnel. In the second half of June, several incidents of shelling and aerial bombardment were reported on areas near the front lines in northern rural Ladhiqiyah, western rural Idlib and northern rural Hama, resulting in deaths as well as local temporary displacement. During the reporting period, a large number of civilians, including 11 women and 11 children, were reportedly killed, with many more injured.

3. As a follow-up to the United Nations inter-agency humanitarian assessment mission to Raqqah city that took place on 1 April, the Department of Safety and Security and the Mine Action Service conducted a technical assessment to Raqqah city from 13 to 15 June. Some 138,000 civilians have returned to Raqqah city since the end of hostilities in October 2017 despite the high levels of explosive hazard contamination.

4. In northern Aleppo Governorate, attacks in Afrin and the areas formerly covered by Operation Euphrates Shield resulted in civilians being killed and injured, with multiple improvised explosive devices detonating in civilian-populated areas.

5. United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need. Humanitarian assistance provided from within the country by United Nations agencies reached more than 3 million people with food assistance. Three inter-agency humanitarian convoys of life-saving relief, food and medical supplies were deployed in June to the hard-to-reach locations of Duma, in eastern Ghutah, Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, in Rif Dimashq, and Rastan, in northern rural Homs, reaching a total of 218,500 people in need. In June, the United Nations delivered life-saving assistance to more than 800,000 people through cross-border deliveries.

3. Since the adoption by the Security Council on 24 February 2018 of resolution 2401 (2018), in which the Council demanded a cessation of hostilities, military conflict has continued in many parts of the Syrian Arab Republic. Throughout June, air strikes, artillery shelling and sniper fire were reported in the governorates of Aleppo, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah, Dayr al-Zawr, Homs, Hama, Suwayda', Dar'a and Qunaytirah, as military operations continued between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and allied pro-government forces and non-State armed opposition groups. In-fighting among non-State armed opposition groups was reported in Aleppo and Idlib Governorates. Sporadic clashes occurred between government forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate.

4. Significant military escalation occurred from 17 June in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic, with air strikes and artillery shelling accompanied by a ground offensive by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, supported by allied forces, that resulted in deaths, injuries and the displacement of the civilian population, including many women and children. By the end of June, government forces had seized large swathes of territory in the eastern countryside of Dar'a Governorate and advanced towards the Syrian-Jordanian border. A large number of civilians, including 19 women and 7 children, were reportedly killed in Dar'a Governorate as a result of air and ground-based strikes. The escalation of hostilities in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic included the use of explosive weaponry, which will exacerbate the existing explosive hazard contamination in the area. The military escalation also resulted in large-scale civilian displacement, in particular towards the Jordanian border in the south and Qunaytirah Governorate in the west. By the end of

the reporting period, an estimated 271,800 people had been displaced, including 164,000 who had moved towards camps for displaced persons and villages in Qunaytirah and 60,000 who had been displaced in proximity to the Syrian-Jordanian border. Many displaced persons lacked shelter and basic items. Deaths were reported on the border due to the severe conditions, including deaths from dehydration, scorpion bites and diseases from contaminated water.

5. From 27 June, hostilities forced the United Nations to suspend its cross-border deliveries from Jordan for lack of security assurances. However, aid for some 189,000 people had been pre-positioned in advance of the surge in fighting. Within 48 hours of the first displacement, pre-positioned stocks were delivered to newly displaced people. In June, the United Nations and its partners provided emergency assistance for some 180,000 people. On 27 June, the Syrian authorities announced the establishment of corridors through which people could leave areas not under government control. Up to 15,000 people had used those corridors by the end of the reporting period. As at 30 June, negotiations between representatives of the Government and non-State armed opposition groups, facilitated by the Russian Federation, had resulted in some local agreements but no comprehensive deal. The United Nations was not a party to those agreements, nor was it involved in their implementation.

6. Insecurity in Idlib Governorate in June resulting from fighting among non-State armed opposition groups continued to have a negative impact on the civilian population. In the second half of June, several incidents of shelling and aerial bombardment were reported on areas near the front lines in northern rural Ladhiqiyah, western rural Idlib and northern rural Hama. Civilian casualties and local temporary displacement were reported. A large number of civilians, including 11 women and 11 children, were reportedly killed, with many more injured. On 7 June, two air strikes in Zardana reportedly resulted in the deaths of at least 44 civilians, including 11 women and 5 children, with scores more injured. Subsequently, attacks were reported against the nearby villages of Fu'ah and Kafraya, besieged by armed opposition groups since March 2015, resulting in the death of a child and the injury of two other people. On 21 June, two consecutive car bombs detonated near a hotel in Idlib city, reportedly causing a significant number of deaths and injuries. Meanwhile, humanitarian demining, the renovation of medical centres and schools, the development of an electricity grid and the repair of water and sewage systems are all under way.

7. Some 190,500 people are currently estimated to reside in eastern Ghutah, Rif Dimashq Governorate, with the highest population centres being Duma, Saqba and Hammuriyah. This number includes some 20,970 people who have returned since 15 May, when the authorities began allowing those with the necessary clearances to exit the sites for displaced persons. At the same time, 14,435 people remain at the sites, many of them men and boys between the ages of 15 and 55 years. Access for the United Nations remains challenging; the sites for displaced persons were last reached on 15 June. In addition, for the first time since March, United Nations convoys reached Duma, eastern Ghutah, where assistance was provided for some 70,000 people in need. The provision of public health services is still at a minimum, with a lack of medicines reported from Duma, and medical emergencies are referred by the Department of Health to hospitals in Damascus and transported by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Commercial movement, however, is reported to reach the area without restriction. Markets are fully operational, and all key commodities are available, at prices similar to those in Damascus.

8. Some 138,000 civilians have returned to Raqqah city since the end of hostilities in October 2017 despite the high levels of explosive hazard contamination. As a follow-up to the United Nations inter-agency humanitarian assessment mission to

Raqqah city that took place on 1 April, the Department of Safety and Security and the Mine Action Service conducted a technical assessment in Raqqah city from 13 to 15 June. The number of reported blast-related incidents at health facilities per month has decreased, from a high of more than 170 in November 2017 to 23 in May (the last month for which data are available). Only one blast-related casualty was reported in the first half of June. Access to basic services has gradually improved, with hospitals opening and electricity to infrastructure sites such as pumping stations having been restored. Only half the city receives water through the supply network, however, often in insufficient quantities. The United Nations and its partners continue to provide assistance to the city and to the broader Raqqah Governorate, reaching more than 650,000 people per month with assistance.

9. Military offensives continued against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the eastern part of the Syrian Arab Republic. On 3 June, the Syrian Democratic Forces announced the resumption of fighting against ISIL, seizing additional land in Hasakah Governorate during the reporting period. Fighting was also reported between government forces and ISIL in a rural pocket straddling Dayr al-Zawr and Homs Governorates. The General Command of the Syrian Arab Armed Forces announced full government control over the area on 27 June. A number of civilians were reportedly killed as a result of these attacks. In a single incident, on 12 June, at least 10 civilians were killed and 15 others injured when air strikes were reported to have hit the ISIL-held village of Hassun al-Basha, located near the Tall al-Shayir area of southern Hasakah. Reports were also received of the detonation of pieces of unexploded ordnance in areas recently taken over from ISIL in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, resulting in the killing and injury of civilians.

10. In northern Aleppo Governorate, attacks in Afrin and the areas formerly covered by Operation Euphrates Shield resulted in civilians being killed and injured, with multiple improvised explosive devices detonating in civilian-populated areas. In a single incident, at least 11 civilians, including 2 children, were reportedly killed by a bomb attached to a motorbike that detonated in a marketplace in Bab city. On 27 June, two car bombs reportedly detonated in Afrin town, resulting in the deaths of 15 people and the injury of 23. This was the first such incident in Afrin district since March 2018.

11. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria intensified efforts to establish a constitutional committee, as agreed in the final statement of the Congress of the Syrian National Dialogue, to be facilitated by the United Nations within the framework of the Geneva process and in accordance with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015). Consultations in Brussels, Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Egypt and discussions with several other Member States preceded formal joint consultations with key stakeholders in Geneva to discuss the way ahead. The Special Envoy hosted representatives of the Astana guarantors, namely, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and Turkey, in Geneva, which allowed for the emergence of some common ground on the issue of a constitutional committee, as well as representatives from the Small Group of the Global Coalition, composed of France, Germany, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States, to discuss de-escalation arrangements, diplomatic bridging proposals and prospects for progress on the constitutional track.

Protection

12. Air and ground-based strikes continued to kill and injure civilians and damage and destroy civilian infrastructure. Explosive weapons continued to be fired into populated areas, killing and injuring civilians and destroying and damaging vital infrastructure. Communities were littered with explosive hazards that killed and injured civilians and impeded humanitarian access. The use of improvised explosive

devices in some areas added to the complexity of the explosive hazard threat. The many civilian casualties and the scale of the destruction of civilian infrastructure remained a strong indication that violations of the fundamental rules of distinction, proportionality and precaution, and in particular of the prohibition on the launching of indiscriminate attacks, continued.

13. Fighting continued to have an impact on civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities, schools, markets and places of worship. According to information received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), civilian casualties occurred in various governorates, possibly in violation of international humanitarian law (see annex). OHCHR has documented alleged violations committed by parties to the conflict, including government forces and their allies, non-State armed opposition groups and their allies, and Security Council-designated terrorist groups.

14. Notwithstanding the call upon the Syrian authorities by the Human Rights Council, in its resolutions S-18/1 and 19/22, to cooperate with OHCHR, including through the establishment of a field presence with the mandate to protect and promote human rights, OHCHR reporting remained limited, given that the Government had not granted it access to the country.

15. Civilians across the Syrian Arab Republic continued to be subjected to deprivation of liberty, ill-treatment, torture and murder by parties to the conflict. On 5 June, members of the Syrian Democratic Forces reportedly detained at least 31 male civilians as they attempted to pass through a market in Tabaqah, western Raqqah Governorate. Their whereabouts remain unknown. The deputy head of the de facto local council of Afrin district, western rural Aleppo Governorate, was reportedly held together with his family on 8 June in the Shaykh al-Hadid area of Afrin city. His family members were released a few hours later, but the councilman was not released until two days later, after his health began to deteriorate as a result of ill-treatment. He died on 11 June. On 24 June, a non-State armed opposition group in the Jindayris area of Afrin district reportedly held a number of Iraqi refugees for a few hours and confiscated their money and personal belongings before releasing them.

16. The United Nations and its health partners verified eight attacks that affected health-care facilities and personnel during the reporting period, all in the southern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, resulting in the deaths of four health workers and the injury of five others. Seven of the attacked health facilities were in areas controlled by non-State armed opposition groups and one was in a government-controlled area. On 21 June, a primary health centre in eastern Mulayhah, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in severe structural damage and damage to equipment. The attack also resulted in damage to the ambulance attached to the facility. The centre is reportedly out of service. On 24 June, the primary health centre in Busra al-Hariri, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in structural damage and damage to equipment. Initial reports indicated that one health worker had been killed, and the facility is reported to be out of service. On 26 June, the Dar'a National Hospital was reportedly hit by two mortars landing in the ambulance square. The attack led to material damage only. On 26 June, the primary health centre in Musayfirah, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in major structural damage. On 27 June, a field hospital in Sayda, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in major structural damage. On 27 June, the outpatient department and dialysis centre of the hospital in Harak, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in major structural damage. On 27 June, the hospital in Jizah, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in major structural damage, as well as the deaths of two health workers and the injury of three others. On 27 June, the hospital complex housing Al-Ihsan Hospital and E. Ghariyah Blood Bank, Dar'a, was hit, resulting in major structural damage. As staff worked to evacuate the

premises, continued conflict resulted in the death of one health worker and the injury of two others.

17. Educational facilities also continued to be affected by the fighting, with four credible reports of attacks. On 10 June, in Binnish town, Idlib Governorate, four schools, namely, Girls' High School, Mamdouh Shu'aib High School, Mustafa Farhat School (Resala School) and Asaad Anadani School, were impacted by a series of air strikes that rendered all facilities out of service, with no casualties. On 25 June, in Busra al-Hariri town, Dar'a Governorate, the guard of a school was killed when air strikes hit while he was on duty at the facility. On 21 June, in Musayfirah, Dar'a Governorate, an alternative learning centre was impacted by shelling that partially damaged the facility and rendered it out of service.

Humanitarian access

Box 2
Key points

1. United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need, including from within the Syrian Arab Republic. Humanitarian assistance provided from within the Syrian Arab Republic by United Nations agencies based in the country to regularly accessible locations in government-controlled areas reached more than 3 million people with food assistance through 2,244 deliveries.

2. Three inter-agency humanitarian convoys of life-saving relief, food and medical supplies were deployed in June, namely, to the hard-to-reach locations of Duma, in eastern Ghutah, Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, in Rif Dimashq, and Rastan, in northern rural Homs. Convoys to the latter two locations were accompanied by the United Nations. United Nations personnel were, however, not permitted to participate in the convoy to Duma because security approvals had not been received from the Syrian authorities.

3. Cross-border assistance, authorized under Security Council resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2393 (2017), remained a vital part of the humanitarian response. In June, 314 trucks (13 consignments) delivered life-saving assistance to more than 800,000 people through cross-border deliveries. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. However, United Nations humanitarian cross-border operations through Jordan had to be suspended in late June owing to the escalating violence in Dar'a, Qunaytirah and Suwayda' Governorates.

4. Supplies pre-positioned in anticipation of an offensive in the south had been dispatched over the past few months for an initial front-line response, and preparedness plans were actively translated into operational plans in late June when violence escalated in Dar'a, Qunaytirah and Suwayda' Governorates.

18. Under the United Nations inter-agency convoy plan for May and June, access was requested to 20 locations in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, with the objective of reaching 860,200 people. In June, three inter-agency convoys were authorized to deploy to the hard-to-reach locations of Duma, in eastern Ghutah, Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, in Rif Dimashq, and Rastan, in northern rural Homs, providing multisectoral assistance to 218,500 people (see tables 1 and 2).

Table 1
Inter-agency cross-line humanitarian convoys, June 2018

Date	*Location*	*Requested target (number of beneficiaries)*	*Number of beneficiaries reached*	*Type of assistance*
10 June	Duma	85 000	60 000	Multisectoral
14 June	Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham	61 000	51 000	Multisectoral
26 June	Rastan	107 500	107 500	Multisectoral

Figure I
Percentage of people reached each month in besieged areas through United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations, October 2017–June 2018

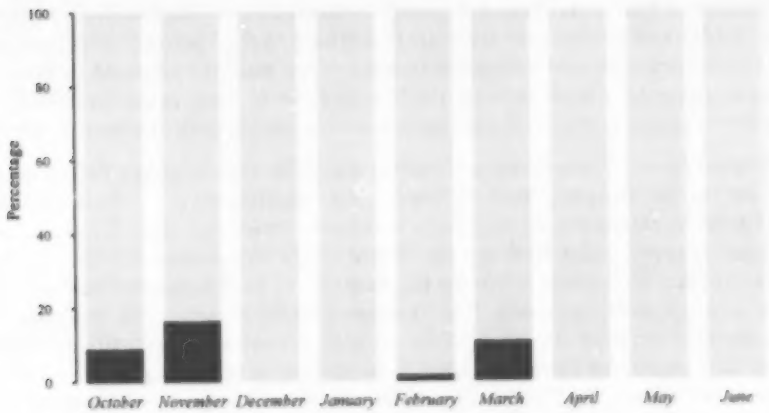

Figure II
Inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations, June 2018

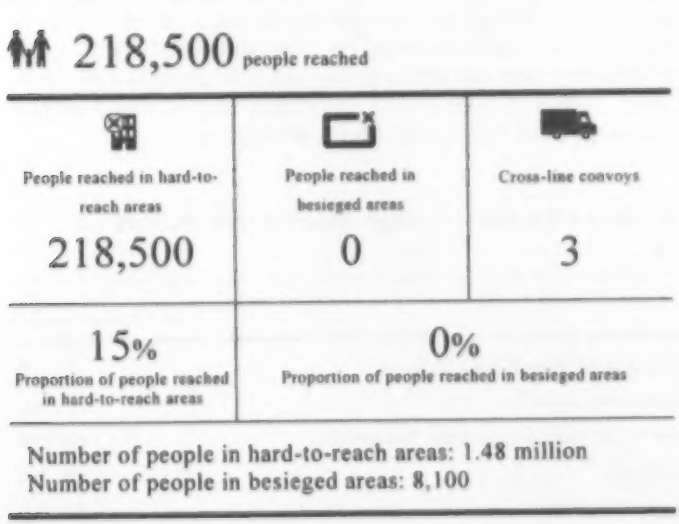

Table 2
Besieged locations, June 2018

Governorate	*Location*	*Population*	*Besieged by*
Idlib	Fu'ah	5 900	Non-State armed opposition groups
Idlib	Kafraya	2 200	Non-State armed opposition groups
Total		**8 100**	

Humanitarian response

19. United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners reached millions of people in need, including women and children, through all available access routes, including: (a) humanitarian operations from within the Syrian Arab Republic, whereby humanitarian deliveries reach those in need without crossing conflict lines; (b) cross-line convoys, whereby assistance from within the country is delivered across conflict lines; and (c) cross-border deliveries, whereby assistance is provided to those in need from Iraq, Jordan and Turkey (see table 3). In addition to the United Nations and its partners, the Government and non-governmental organizations continued to deliver life-saving assistance to people in need. Local authorities in many areas controlled by non-State armed opposition groups also continued to provide services where possible.

20. Individual agencies continued to submit requests for single-agency deliveries to locations across the country. Such deliveries are undertaken by United Nations agencies based in Damascus to regularly accessible areas. In June, 2,244 of the 2,252 official requests submitted by the World Food Programme to the Syrian authorities to obtain facilitation letters for the transport of food assistance to locations across the country were approved. The remaining eight requests did not receive official approvals because of the closure of supply routes for security reasons, preventing the Programme from delivering food assistance to 5,625 people in Dar'a city, Dar'a Governorate. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) submitted 33 requests for facilitation letters for the movement of core relief items and livelihood kits, all of which were approved. More than 1,970,000 children and mothers were reached with primary health-care and immunization services during June. In addition, an estimated 293,000 children and pregnant and lactating women were provided with nutritional supplements and services. A total of 104,000 children benefited from essential learning materials and remedial education, and 172,000 children benefited from protection and psychosocial support services. Approximately 3 million people received food assistance and nearly 1 million benefited from water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies.

Table 3
People reached by the United Nations and other organizations through all modalities, June 2018

Organization	*Number of people reached*
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	124 000
International Organization for Migration	31 000
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2 897 000
United Nations Children's Fund	3 000 000
United Nations Development Programme	1 299 000
United Nations Population Fund	360 000

Organization	*Number of people reached*
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	160 000
World Food Programme	3 010 000
World Health Organization	335 000

21. Military escalation in eastern Ghutah ceased during the reporting period. An estimated 14,435 people remained at nearby sites for internally displaced persons during the reporting period, while an estimated 190,500 people stayed inside eastern Ghutah. Humanitarian access to assist civilians in need in eastern Ghutah remained challenging. The United Nations did not receive permission to conduct needs assessments or deliver humanitarian assistance inside the enclave during the reporting period. Humanitarian assistance, including the delivery of United Nations food assistance for 45,400 people on 10 June, has been provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. United Nations personnel were not permitted to accompany the convoy to Duma on 10 June because security approvals had not been received from the Syrian authorities. However, the United Nations continued to provide assistance to displaced people at displacement sites in Rif Dimashq and to evacuees in Idlib and northern Aleppo Governorates through implementing partners.

22. An estimated 138,800 people remained displaced from Afrin district in the Tall Rif'at, Nubl, Zahra' and Fafin areas of Aleppo Governorate. People displaced from Afrin to Tall Rif'at and other areas have largely been accessible to humanitarian organizations operating from Aleppo. Humanitarian access to Afrin city from within the Syrian Arab Republic has not yet received the necessary approvals from the Syrian authorities. While Turkey and Turkish authorities provide the majority of the response in those areas, the United Nations, through its cross-border humanitarian partners, is also contributing to life-saving services and activities in the district. However, needs are considered to remain high, with most health facilities in rural areas closed, many service providers having fled the area and a large proportion of schools, markets and bakeries not yet functional, owing to explosive remnants of war and the continued absence of staff, workers and tradespeople.

23. In Raqqah Governorate, an estimated 138,000 people have returned to Raqqah city since the withdrawal of ISIL. Most returnees have settled in areas with comparatively less infrastructure damage and explosive hazard contamination. Scaling up the humanitarian response and capacity has been challenging because of the high levels of contamination from mines and unexploded ordnance, which pose significant threats to the returnees and humanitarian workers. A United Nations technical mission conducted in mid-June found that the city still suffered from extensive destruction. Clear improvements had been noticed within the past few months, however, as more streets were being opened for traffic. Access to basic services within Raqqah city continued to gradually improve, with hospitals reopening and electricity re-established in rural areas to the north of the city, as well as at other infrastructure sites. Seven health facilities, as well as the main marketplace, bakeries, pharmacies, groceries and restaurants, were operational again.

24. Cross-border deliveries continued from Iraq, Jordan and Turkey under the terms of resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (see figure III and table 4). In line with those resolutions, the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment, including its contents, its destination and the number of beneficiaries expected to be reached.

25. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations authorized under resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258

(2015) and 2393 (2017) in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. During the reporting period, the Mechanism monitored the delivery of 13 consignments by 7 United Nations agencies, consisting of 314 trucks, from the 4 border crossings: 4 from Bab al-Hawa (216 trucks), 3 from Bab al-Salam (22 trucks), 5 from Ramtha (66 trucks) and 1 from Ya'rubiyah (10 trucks). There were no concerns or questions about the humanitarian nature of the consignments sent. The United Nations provided 48-hour notice to the Government regarding all shipments. Once in the country, United Nations partners ensured that shipments arrived at the designated warehouses. Independent third-party companies contracted by the United Nations ensured independent verification of the assistance arriving at the warehouses and monitored the distribution and/or service provision. The Mechanism continued to benefit from the excellent cooperation of the Governments of Iraq, Jordan and Turkey.

26. Since cross-border operations began in July 2014, following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014), the United Nations has conducted more than 831 cross-border consignments, with more than 20,993 trucks (14,203 through Bab al-Hawa and 2,153 through Bab al-Salam from Turkey; 4,605 through Ramtha from Jordan; and 32 through Ya'rubiyah from Iraq). Those operations complement and support the aid provided by international and Syrian non-governmental organizations that provide services to millions more from neighbouring countries.

27. During the reporting period, the United Nations and its implementing partners delivered food assistance to more than 500,000 people from three cross-border entry points through Turkey and Jordan. The United Nations also conducted health and medical deliveries, providing nearly 370,000 treatments through the cross-border mechanism. In the northern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Nations Children's Fund delivered winter kits, child protection assistance, nutrition, education, health and water, sanitation and hygiene supplies through a number of cross-border shipments. More than 52,440 people had improved access to clean water through the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation systems, while 15,780 people had sustained access to safe drinking water. A total of 34,321 people had improved access to sanitation services as a result of solid waste collection and disposal. A total of 94,154 people benefited from access to improved life-saving and emergency water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services. A total of 103,267 children and women of child-bearing age had access to primary health-care outpatient consultations. A total of 3,817 people were reached with health supplies and 726 caregivers were reached with health promotion, including immunization messages. A total of 718,977 children under the age of 5 were vaccinated through polio campaigns and 5,429 were reached with routine vaccination (DTP3-containing vaccine). Curative and preventive nutritional interventions were delivered to 38,692 children under the age of 5 and to 35,131 pregnant and lactating women in the north-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic (Aleppo, Idlib and Hama). A total of 59,692 children between the ages of 6 and 59 months and pregnant and lactating women were screened for acute malnutrition using mid-upper-arm circumference. Of the screened children and women, 400 children were found to be severely acutely malnourished and referred to appropriate treatment. A total of 36,333 pregnant and lactating women received education and/or counselling on optimal childcare and feeding practices.

28. In the southern parts of the Syrian Arab Republic, a total of 1,342 children under the age of 5 (683 boys and 659 girls) were screened for acute malnutrition. Among them, 30 were diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (14 boys and 16 girls). Those 30 children were enrolled in therapeutic and supplementary nutritional programmes and received the required nutritional interventions from six health centres and one mobile clinic. Moreover, 3,680 pregnant and lactating women were screened for acute malnutrition. A total of 7,395 children under the age of 5 and 1,860 pregnant and lactating women received micronutrient supplementation to prevent and treat

micronutrient deficiencies. In addition, 1,345 pregnant and lactating women received counselling services with respect to infant and young child feeding practices. More than 440,000 people benefited from improved access to clean water through the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation systems until the third week of June, when humanitarian operations were disrupted owing to escalating violence.

29. Supplies pre-positioned in anticipation of an offensive in the southern part of the Syrian Arab Republic had been dispatched over the past few months for an initial front-line response, and preparedness plans were actively translated into operational plans in late June. By the end of June, the United Nations had distributed emergency food assistance for some 180,000 people, with some receiving a second round of assistance, including ready-to-eat rations, regular food rations and nutrition supplies for the prevention of malnutrition in children under the age of 2. In addition to the food distributions, pre-positioned food stocks were sufficient for an additional 200,000 people, lasting for one month. By late June, more than 28,000 people had been reached with various shelter and non-food items, including shelter kits, non-food item kits and hygiene kits. In addition, since 19 June, protection partners had been dispatching mobile teams to provide psychosocial support, including psychological first aid, to people fleeing from the recent violence. Mobile teams were also involved in the identification of gender-based violence and child protection concerns, conducting referrals where possible. Mine-action-related medical services continued to operate, providing medical assistance, physical rehabilitation and psychosocial support.

30. UNHCR and its partners continued to enhance the response to the protection needs of internally displaced persons, returnees and other crisis-affected populations. By the end of June, 18,951 protection interventions had been conducted, reaching 487,725 individuals, including 398,909 individuals benefiting from general protection activities, 5,718 benefiting from child protection activities and 76,244 reached through more than 2,388 awareness-raising campaigns across 12 governorates on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence. As at June 2018, the total number of functioning UNHCR-funded community centres and mobile units stood at 95 community centres, 17 satellite centres and 78 mobile units, supported by 2,183 outreach volunteers. This network provided protection-related services, including community mobilization, child protection, legal aid, the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, livelihood services and services for persons with specific needs, to benefit some 2.6 million internally displaced persons, returnees, host communities and other crisis-affected people across 12 Syrian governorates. In June, 72,478 internally displaced persons in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Suwayda', Dar'a, Qunaytirah, Tartus, Ladhiqiyah, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Hasakah were direct beneficiaries of the UNHCR legal assistance programme, including counselling; awareness sessions on various legal topics, including civil documentation and women's rights; and lawyers' direct interventions before courts and administrative bodies. Moreover, the United Nations Population Fund reached more than 360,000 people, carrying out activities relating to reproductive health and the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence and youth-related violence. Also during the reporting period, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) distributed food parcels to some 25,000 Palestine refugees. In addition, 7,425 Palestine refugees displaced from Yarmouk received ready-to-eat food baskets in June. A total of 144,361 individuals received cash assistance through the regular cash distribution round, and 4,140 Palestine refugees displaced from Yarmouk and eastern Ghutah benefited from a one-time payment of $70 per family.

Figure III
Number of beneficiaries assisted by the United Nations and its partners by cluster through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, June 2018

(Thousands)

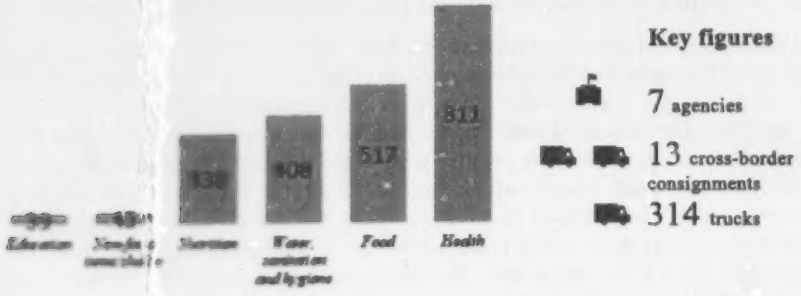

Table 4
Number of beneficiaries targeted through cross-border deliveries by sector and by district, June 2018

Governorate	District	Education	Food	Health	Non-food items/shelter	Nutrition	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Aleppo	Afrin	–	–	100	–	–	–
Aleppo	Azaz	–	–	2 260	–	–	–
Aleppo	Jarabulus	–	62 970	18 640	–	–	–
Aleppo	Jarabulus	–	–	660	–	–	–
Aleppo	Jabal Sim'an	–	19 400	13 480	9 000	–	–
Hasakah	Qamishli	–	–	82 050	5 544	–	–
Dar'a	Sanamayn	1 050	685	–	–	–	–
Dar'a	Dar'a	2 440	42 945	313 000	17 400	–	310 409
Dar'a	Izra'	12 300	43 017	158 000	–	–	87 838
Hama	Suqaylibiyah	–	–	–	–	–	–
Idlib	Ma'arrah	–	61 900	4 870	5 000	–	5 000
Idlib	Ariha	–	13 500	1 600	–	–	–
Idlib	Harim	21 600	216 000	99 270	5 000	337 877	5 000
Idlib	Idlib	–	53 125	16 640	1 445	–	–
Idlib	Jisr al-Shughur	–	–	3 580	–	–	–
Qunaytirah	Fiq	300	12	10 200	–	–	–
Qunaytirah	Qunaytirah	1 700	3 141	86 465	–	–	–

31. The Russian Federation sent informational bulletins to the United Nations from the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic, which outlined the provision of bilateral relief assistance. Other Member States also continued to provide bilateral and other forms of humanitarian assistance.

Visas and registrations

32. A total of 56 new United Nations visa requests were submitted to the Government [illegible] of those, 34 were approved, 11 remained pending, 35 were approved in June, while 4 remained pending. One new visa application was rejected and one was cancelled by the United Nations. A total of 92 United Nations

visa renewal requests were submitted in June, of which 53 were approved and 39 remained pending. An additional 26 requests for visa renewals submitted in May were approved in June. For some United Nations entities in the Syrian Arab Republic, a significant number of staff are not yet in place or cannot be replaced owing to the non-issuance of visas for months, formal requests notwithstanding.

33. A total of 23 international non-governmental organizations are registered with the Government to operate in the country.

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises

34. Agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system continued to implement programmes in areas affected by frequent clashes among parties to the conflict, air strikes, the regular exchange of indirect artillery fire and asymmetrical attacks. As a result of activities relating to the armed conflict, significant areas of operation became highly contaminated with unexploded ordnance, explosive remnants of war and landmines, which pose an elevated risk to the implementation of United Nations activities in those areas.

35. Since the beginning of the conflict, dozens of humanitarian workers have been killed, including: 22 staff members of the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, 18 of whom were staff members of UNRWA; 66 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent; and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Many staff members of international and national non-governmental organizations are also reported to have been killed.

36. A total of 27 staff members of agencies and programmes of the United Nations system (1 staff member of the United Nations Development Programme, 1 staff member of the Department of Safety and Security and 25 UNRWA staff members) are being detained or are missing.

III. Observations

37. I am deeply alarmed by the military offensive in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic and its devastating toll on civilians. I urge the international community to unite to put an end to the continued hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic, which risk further destabilizing the region and worsening the deep humanitarian crisis for the Syrian people. The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic will end not through military gains, but only through a political solution under the auspices of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) and the Action Group for Syria Final Communiqué.

38. Ensuring safe, sustained and unimpeded access for people in need throughout the country remains essential to avoiding the further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis. However, United Nations access to areas across conflict lines and areas that have recently changed control remains severely limited. Humanitarian aid must be able to reach those areas without delay. In areas that recently changed control, access restrictions have been further challenged by the lack of basic services, as service providers have been displaced as part of local agreements reached between Syrian authorities and non-State armed opposition groups. The teachers, doctors and other service providers providing essential basic services before changes in control should be protected, so that those they support continue to receive the assistance that they need.

39. I am particularly concerned about the curtailment of cross-border operations due to the lack of security assurances in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab

resolutions, allows for cross-border assistance to be provided to reach those in need

through the most direct routes. As I have stated previously, all methods of delivery are essential to the efficient and effective provision of humanitarian assistance and to ensuring a needs-based response. Parties must ensure that the necessary security guarantees are in place for the continued delivery to those in need in the south, recognizing that needs have increased since the escalation of hostilities, owing to attacks on civilians and mass displacement.

40. I remind all parties to the conflict of their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure; not to make civilian infrastructure the object of attack and to take special care to avoid damage to schools (unless, in each case, they have become lawful military objectives); and to respect and protect health workers and not to direct attacks against health facilities. Humanitarian relief personnel must be respected and protected, given that they play an essential role in the delivery of basic services and will be essential to the continuation of service delivery, even in areas that change control. The rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need that is impartial in character and conducted without any adverse distinction must be allowed and facilitated. Civilians wishing to flee the fighting should be allowed to do so without hindrance and in full dignity and safety, while those wishing to stay must be protected. Parties to the conflict may not order the displacement of the civilian population for reasons related to the conflict unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons demand it.

41. Continuing violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights law committed by all parties to the conflict, and impunity for them, remain of grave concern. I reiterate that those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law must be held accountable. Such a step is central to achieving sustainable peace in the Syrian Arab Republic. I also reiterate my call for the situation in the country to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

42. I also call upon all parties to the conflict, all States, civil society and the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, in particular by providing information and documentation.

43. My Special Envoy will continue his efforts to meaningfully relaunch the United Nations-facilitated political process and to establish a constitutional committee, as agreed in the final statement of the Congress of the Syrian National Dialogue. The joint consultations held in Geneva with the Astana guarantors and the Small Group of the Global Coalition revealed some common ground and an expectation that any constitutional committee must be credible and internationally legitimate and must bring together representatives of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Syrian opposition, as well as independents, civil society, experts and women. I fully support my Special Envoy's efforts to ensure that the constitutional committee has a minimum of 30 per cent of seats reserved for women. The formation of a constitutional committee would be a contribution to the United Nations-facilitated political process, one affording Syrians the opportunity to have a voice in the future of their country, move beyond conflict and end their unimaginable suffering.

Annex

Reported incidents affecting civilians, recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, June 2018*

Dar'a Governorate

- On 19 June, civilians were killed as a result of different strikes that hit several areas in Dar'a city and other areas in rural Dar'a. As a result of those strikes, one girl was killed in the Dar'a Mahattah area of Dar'a city, one boy was killed in opposition-held Khirbat al-Ghazalah, one civilian woman was killed in opposition-held Mahajjah and two other civilians were killed in opposition-held Nahtah.
- On 20 June, ground-based strikes reportedly hit Harak city and killed five civilians, including three women. Another two civilian women were reportedly killed in the Lajah area on the same day also as a result of ground-based strikes.
- On 20 June, three civilians were reportedly killed in Dar'a city as a result of ground-based strikes. On the same day, three civilian women were reportedly killed in the Malihah al-Gharbiyah area as a result of ground-based strikes.
- On 21 June, four civilians, including one woman and two children, were reportedly killed as a result of ground-based strikes that hit the Harak area.
- On 22 June, eight civilians, including two women and one child, were killed as a result of ground-based strikes and air strikes that hit different areas in Dar'a city and Mahajjah.
- On 24 June, nine civilians, including two women, were reportedly killed as a result of air strikes that hit the areas of Surah and Harak.
- On 25 June, at around 1600, a local market in Nawa city, in western rural Dar'a, was reportedly hit with ground-based strikes that killed six civilians, including two children and three women.
- On 27 June, seven civilians, including one woman and three children from the same family, were reportedly killed as a result of air strikes that hit the town of Da'il.
- On 30 June, at least 12 civilians, including 5 women, were reportedly killed as a result of ground-based strikes that hit the Ma'raba area of eastern Dar'a.

Aleppo Governorate

- On 3 June, four civilians were killed and at least two others were injured when a ground-based strike reportedly hit Nile Street, in Aleppo city.
- On 13 June, three civilians were killed when ground-based strikes hit the Tishrin neighbourhood of Aleppo city.
- On 16 June, one civilian was killed in a village in rural Afrin as a result of the detonation of a piece of unexploded ordnance in the street.

* In line with Security Council resolution 2258 (2015), the present description of incidents that are reported to have occurred during the month relates to compliance with Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. The information is provided without prejudice to the work of the Task Force on the Cessation of Hostilities of the International Syria Support Group. The reporting is not a comprehensive listing of all violations of

- On 13 June, an improvised explosive device attached to a motorbike detonated in a marketplace in Bab city, in northern rural Aleppo, killing 11 civilians, including 2 children.
- On 27 June, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device reportedly detonated in Afrin city, killing 7 civilians and injuring 18 others.

Idlib Governorate

- On 10 June, 10 civilians, including 3 children and their parents, were reportedly killed as a result of an air strike that hit a residential area in Taftanaz town, in north-western Idlib.
- On 7 June, in the evening, Zardana village, in northern Idlib Governorate, was reportedly hit with air strikes, killing at least 44 civilians, including 11 women and 5 children, and injuring scores of other civilians, including 9 women and 7 children.
- The strikes on Zardana provoked retaliatory attacks on the two besieged villages of Fu'ah and Kafraya, in Idlib. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights documented the killing of a 12-year-old boy and the injury of two other civilians reportedly as a result of sniper fire on 8 June in Fu'ah and Kafraya.
- On 6 June, an unidentified explosion destroyed a three-story building in the Maydan neighbourhood of Ariha, killing three children from the same family and injuring two other children and two civilian women.

Hasakah Governorate

- On 13 June, four civilians were killed and seven others were injured as a result of air strikes that reportedly hit a residential area in the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-held village of Hardanah, close to the Shaddadah area of southern rural Hasakah.
- On 12 June, air strikes hit the ISIL-held village of Hassun al-Basha, close to the Tall al-Shayir area of southern rural Hasakah, killing 10 civilians and injuring 15 others.

Dayr al-Zawr Governorate

- On 21 June, air strikes reportedly hit the town of Sha'fah, in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr, killing 8 civilians and injuring 11 others.